

As you are probably aware, the California Association of Collection Agencies sponsored the present laws wherein all collection agencies are now licensed by and bonded to the State, and are under direct supervision of the State Superintendent of Collection Agencies. In addition, if the medical fraternity will cooperate by reporting unethical or unsatisfactory actions on the part of collection agents, the Association will lend its assistance to the State authorities in effecting corrections.

Respectfully,  
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF COLLECTION AGENCIES.  
By Louis Spencer, President.  
Income Securities Building, Oakland.

#### Concerning "Tuberculosis Subsidy" Assembly Bills 1927 and 1928:

*To the Editor:*—I enclose herewith a copy of a resolution presented to the Trudeau Society of Los Angeles at its regular meeting Tuesday February 26.

Very truly,  
CARL R. HOWSON, M. D.

#### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, For the past twenty years there have been paid to the counties (or cities) of the State of California from State funds a subsidy of \$3 per week for every indigent patient cared for in a tuberculosis ward or hospital by said counties; and

WHEREAS, There have been introduced into the California Legislature two bills, A. 1927 and A. 1928, which have for their purpose the removal of the present legal requirement that such tuberculosis wards or hospitals shall conform to the regulations of, and be approved by, the State Bureau of Tuberculosis before such State aid shall be forthcoming; and

WHEREAS, During the twenty years of its existence it has been conclusively demonstrated that the enforcement of this requirement has been the most important single factor in the improvement of the provision for and the treatment of these patients throughout the State, and the attainment of the present high standards for their care; and

WHEREAS, The removal of this restriction will not only increase the payments from the State treasury, but will also open the way for possible serious abuses; now therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Trudeau Society of Los Angeles is of the opinion that the passage of these bills would inevitably tend to lower the quality of care given these unfortunate sick, and would render further improvements in their care in public institutions extremely difficult; and be it further

*Resolved*, That we request our representatives in the Assembly and Senate to vigorously oppose the passage of these bills.

#### Concerning article in February issue:

*To the Editor:*—Referring to the paper on "Pharyngo-Esophageal Diverticulum, Pulsion Type" by Doctor Ziegelman, on pages 85 to 90 of the February, 1935, issue, he quotes a letter by Lord Moynihan.

There is an error in the quotation of Moynihan's letter as published in *Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics*, page 128 of the January, 1932, issue, in reference to the Laimer-Haackermann area. To quote Lord Moynihan correctly would be as follows:

"It is Laimer, who was prosecutor at Graz, and Haackermann, now of Bremen, in whom interest centers. The 'point' to which Doctor McEvers refers is not a point, but an area. The 'Lainer-Hackermann point' becomes, therefore, the 'Laimer-Haackermann area.'"

It is true that these two names have been misspelled in the literature and also in the medical dictionaries. In *The American Illustrated Medical Dictionary* (Dorland), thirteenth edition, published in 1925, the names are given as "Lannier-Hackerman area."

To correct the spelling of these names, they become *Laimer* and *Haackermann*.

I am writing only to call attention to the incorrect spelling of the names of both *Laimer* and *Haackermann*.

A. E. MCEVERS, M. D.

1930 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles.

#### Concerning Pan-American Medical Association cruise to Rio Janeiro:

*To the Editor:*—Enclosed find a news item concerning the Pan-American Medical Association which I am asking you to publish in *CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE*. You must realize the importance of this great Pan-American movement. The officials of the parent organization as well as myself will appreciate your publishing this.

Very sincerely yours,

CHARLES P. MATHÉ, M. D.

"The Pan-American Medical Association, which embraces the leading physicians and surgeons of the Western Hemisphere, will meet in New York to board the steamship *Columbia* of the Panama Pacific Line. The 40,000-ton luxury liner, the largest ever to cruise to South America, is being redecorated, and could accommodate one thousand passengers in the atmosphere of a smart beach club.

The ship will sail from New York on July 18, returning to New York on August 28. The itinerary will be as follows: New York, Havana, Curacao, five days at Rio de Janeiro (where a scientific congress will be held), three days at Santos (for attending a scientific convention at Sao Paulo), returning via Trinidad, Santo Domingo, Kingston (Jamaica), Havana, and New York.

During the voyage scientific meetings in all branches of medicine will be conducted. This will give an excellent opportunity for physicians, while enjoying an ideal summer holiday, to meet with and hear lectures by the leaders of the profession in all sections of surgery and medicine.

The Brazilian Government has suggested August for the congress there, as this is the time of the year that the climate is most delightful. His Excellency, Dr. Getulio Vargas, President of the Republic of Brazil, has expressed his pleasure at the selection of Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo for the congress and the opportunity his country will have of being the host to the members of the Pan-American Medical Association. . . .

Apart from deriving definite scientific advantages from the cruise, the medical men will establish social contacts of lasting value to Pan-American relations and visit Rio de Janeiro, known as the most beautiful of all cities, with its famous Oswaldo Cruz Institute of Tropical Medicine; Santos, with its bathing beaches at the height of the season; Sao Paulo, with its world-renowned University and Instituto Sero-Therapeutico for the study of reptiles and poisons.

An inaugural dinner officially announcing the plans will be given by the Pan-American Medical Association on March 1 on board the steamship *Columbia* in honor of His Excellency, Dr. Oswaldo Aranha, Brazilian Ambassador to the United States.

Previous congresses of this association have been held in Havana (1929), Panama City (1930), Mexico, D. F. (1931), Dallas (1933). Last year a "floating congress," similar to the coming congress, was held in which 560 physicians, their families and friends took a cruise, visiting Cuba, Colombia, Venezuela, Panama, and Puerto Rico. The scientific meeting at Maracay, Venezuela, and the hospitality of His Excellency, General Juan Vicente Gomez, President of the Republic of Venezuela, were important features of last year's congress. . . .

Thomas Cook and Son will be general managers of the cruise. The prices will range from \$450 for the forty-day cruise.

For further information, write to Pan-American Medical Association, 745 Fifth Avenue, New York City."

## SERA IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

### A Summary of the Program Being Put Into Effect for the Medical Care of the Unemployed by the L. A. C. R. A., Coöperating with the Los Angeles County Medical Association.

Provisions for the medical care of the unemployed in Los Angeles County have been made.

The importance of this movement, in which State and Federal funds shall pay for medical services to be rendered to a considerable portion of our citizenry, should be appreciated by every physician.

In Los Angeles County, the Los Angeles County Relief Administration (L. A. C. R. A.) coöperating with the County Medical Association, will administer this emergency program under the supervision of the SERA (State Emergency Relief Administration).

Louis Boonshaft, M. D., has been appointed medical director of this service, with offices at 741 South Flower Street.

On February 6, to help expedite the formation of a panel of physicians and surgeons, the Los Angeles

County Medical Association sent out a letter and a return post card to the physicians and surgeons of Los Angeles County. The letter stated briefly what the program was. The post card was included to allow the profession of Los Angeles County to register for membership on this panel.

Complete details have not as yet been worked out, but generally this medical care will be administered as follows:

All those individuals in Los Angeles County who are entitled to relief under the State Emergency Relief program will be entitled to medical care.

For convenience Los Angeles County is divided into some twenty-odd unemployment districts. Each of these districts, under the supervision of the L. A. C. R. A., will have a social service unit. Each of these units will be supplied with a panel of doctors in that district. When an unemployed resident of that district is found to be in need of medical care he will be given an authorization certificate which he will take to his family physician, if he has one, or to another physician whom he may choose from the panel in that district.

This first certificate authorizes the physician to make his examination and diagnosis and render immediate treatment, either at his office or at the patient's home, according to the nature of the case. On this certificate the physician will make his recommendations for further treatment if it is indicated; these recommendations to be approved by the Medical Advisory Committee of three doctors of medicine in that district, selected by the County Medical Association and approved by the L. A. C. R. A.

Each member of the panel will receive from the L. A. C. R. A. special prescription pads. All prescriptions will be written in triplicate, one to be retained by the doctor, and two to be given to the patient. The patient will have these prescriptions filled at one of the several drug stores in that district that have arranged with the L. A. C. R. A. for this prescription work.

Doctor Boonshaft is preparing the various forms necessary to carry out this program. When they are completed a complete set of forms, together with a letter, explanatory of the whole system, will be mailed to each physician who has signified his willingness to become a member of the panel.

The offices of the Los Angeles County Medical Association have been besieged with telephone and mail inquiries asking questions about details. Most of these questions will be answered when the forms to be used are mailed to members of the panel of the L. A. C. R. A.

At the present time funds are available for medical care, but not for hospitalization. It is anticipated that funds for hospitalization will be available shortly.

The fees allowed at present are \$1.25 for an office call and \$1.75 for a home call.

No physician will be compensated for his services unless the unemployed patient brings proper authorization, with the exception possibly of night emergency calls. On such calls the doctor will be paid for his services if the call has been made on one who is found to be entitled to this service.

Methods of providing special medical care at this writing have not been worked out. Panel members will be informed of such details as they are perfected.

The letter which was sent to the members of the Los Angeles County Medical Association pursuant to the above, follows:

LOS ANGELES COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
Los Angeles

February 6, 1935.

#### IMPORTANT! L. A. C. R. A. PANEL

To All Duly Licensed and Practicing Physicians and Surgeons in Los Angeles County:

The Los Angeles County Medical Association has been charged with the responsibility of offering to all duly licensed and practicing physicians and surgeons in Los Angeles County the opportunity to become members of the panel being created for the medical care of the un-

employed and their families under jurisdiction of the State Emergency Relief Administration.

Cases deserving of such care will be sent to their family physician if they have one in their unemployment district. If they have no such family physician, a physician on the district panel may be selected. These cases will carry authorization from the L. A. C. R. A. for such medical service.

The fees allowed are \$1.25 for an office call, and \$1.75 for a home visit. More complete information on fees and detailed methods of procedure will be sent to those physicians and surgeons who wish to accept a place on this panel.

The attached post card should be filled out completely and mailed immediately by all those who wish to take part in this work.

E. VINCENT ASKEY, M. D.,  
Secretary.

## FEDERAL NARCOTIC FARM

The first United States Narcotic Farm, near Lexington, Kentucky, will open for the reception of admissions on or about May 1. It will accommodate a maximum of one thousand persons and is designed to accommodate males only. Its object and purposes are to rehabilitate, restore to health and train to be self-supporting and self-reliant those who are admitted thereto. The control, management and discipline are to be maintained for the safekeeping of the individual and the protection of the community. Experiments are to be carried on to determine the best methods of treatment and research in this field, and the results disseminated to the medical profession and the general public, to the end that states may make some provision for establishing a similar policy for helping to solve the problem of drug addiction. The function of the institution at Lexington, therefore, assumes the character of a treatment and research center, and of an educational and rehabilitation center with certain custodial features superimposed.

Heretofore, as far as public policies are concerned, drug addiction has been regarded solely as a penal and correctional problem without cognizance being taken of its medical, sociological or economic significance. The institution is to be administered by the United States Public Health Service. As a matter of convenience to Fellows of the American Medical Association, there is herewith printed the regulations governing admissions to that institution. . . .

The above was the opening paragraph of an article which was printed on page 574 of the February 16, 1935, issue of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*. Editorial comment in the same issue (page 566) was as follows:

#### Narcotic Farms—A Public Policy

Elsewhere in this issue appear the regulations governing the admission of persons to the federal narcotic farms, the first of which is being established at Lexington, Kentucky. Addiction to habit-forming drugs is widespread throughout the United States. All classes and groups of the general population are affected by such addiction in one way or another. The geographic distribution of these people corresponds relatively to the geographic distribution and density of the population; occupation, age periods of life, nativity, sex, color, and marital or educational status are not exempting factors. Thus, addiction to narcotic drugs resembles an endemic disease, for it is through and on the people. Based on knowledge available, it is estimated that there are about one hundred thousand drug addicts in the United States.

Perhaps there is no condition in which man is placed that is fully comparable with that of opium addiction, in which food, shelter, raiment, and all those things "by which men live" are cheerfully abandoned for the drug of choice. Contact and association with others who are addicted to the use of such drugs stand out as the more prominent and frequent immediate causes of addiction. The removal of addicts from American